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CHAPTER 30 – CREWS

CREWS

All NRGAs crews must meet the minimum crew national standards as specified in the *Interagency Standards for Fire and Fire Aviation, Chapter 13*. Any deviations to the crew standards must be approved by the ordering unit prior to filling the request.

<https://www.nifc.gov/PUBLICATIONS/redbook/2020/Chapter13.pdf>

A crew manifest form must be attached to the IROC order for all crews dispatched within and outside of the NRGAs. The manifest form needs to include two contact phone numbers. Use the following form:

https://www.nifc.gov/nicc/logistics/coord_forms/Crew_Manifest_Test_Form.pdf.

Zone Dispatch Centers must get approval from NRCC before any negotiation of date and time needed takes place, as there may be crews available that can meet the date and time needed.

When Native American Crews (NAC) are dispatched, at least one crew representative (CREP) should be sent out with every two crews. Additional crew representative duties are listed in the *Northern Rockies Native American Crew Plan* located at:

<https://gacc.nifc.gov/nrcc/dispatch/crews/crews.htm>.

Interagency Resource Representatives (IARRs) may be dispatched by NRCC when four or more crews are dispatched out of the Northern Rockies Geographic Area and may also be used within the area if needed. IARRs mobilized to incident assignments away from their home unit must have the fiscal ability to be self-sufficient. IARRs will be ordered by NRCC and placed on a NRCC resource order. IARRs will contact the NRCC crew desk daily with crew status updates.

MINIMUM CREW STANDARDS FOR MOBILIZATION

Reference the *Interagency Standards for Fire and Fire Aviation Operations, Chapter 13*.

<https://www.nifc.gov/PUBLICATIONS/redbook/2020/Chapter13.pdf>

TYPE 1 INTERAGENCY HOTSHOT CREWS

Reference the *National Interagency Mobilization Guide*.

Northern Rockies Interagency Hotshot Crews

Northern Rockies Hotshot Crews must meet the minimum standards outlined in the *Standards for Interagency Hotshot Crew Operations Guide* located at:

<https://www.fs.fed.us/fire/people/hotshots/Standards%20for%20Interagency%20Hotshot%20Crew%20Operations%202016%20full%20version.pdf>

Note: If an IHC crew is not meeting the requirements for Type 1 within the Standards for Interagency Hotshot Crew Operations Guide (SIHCO), dispatch will change the resource item name to Crew, T2IA – IHC Name (Example: Crew, Type 2IA – Bitterroot IHC) and qualification changed to Type 2 IA in IROC. Do not create a new resource item for the T2IA.

The Northern Rockies supports seven Interagency Hotshot Crews (IHCs); six sponsored by the USFS and one by the BIA. Northern Rockies IHCs will be considered available for incident assignments only after completion of a critical pre-season training period (not less than 40 hours) and completion of the IHC certification checklist signed by the local agency administrator.

IHCs shall include the hours of 1200-1700 local time in their duty day, unless a specific exemption is granted by the NRCC coordinator. When IHCs are in place, units will notify NRCC of their tour of duty.

Crews are considered available when they are prepared to depart for an assignment (ready to roll) within two hours after receipt of a resource request. Crew availability may be affected by local commitments, days off, and R&R. It is the responsibility of the crews' zone Dispatch Center to inform NRCC of crew availability status. Internal assignment of crews is at the discretion of the local dispatch center or NRCC. Units hosting IHCs may dispatch them on their home units but will notify NRCC crew desk or NRCC Coordinator within 15 minutes of changes in resource availability.

Crews will be dispatched within the NR geographic area by local Dispatch Centers and NRCC based on the closest forces concept. NICC may also request that IHCs be mobilized as closest forces to an out-of-area incident.

A rotation is used for out-of-area assignments. The order of rotation for IHC assignments out of the NR geographic area will be determined at the beginning of fire season by the order in which each IHC's completed certification checklist is received by NRCC and showing available national. Available crews will be dispatched in sequential rotation based on this list. Crews returning from an out-of-area assignment will be placed at the bottom of the rotation ensuring that all other crews have an opportunity for an out-of-area dispatch. Once all crews have received an out-of-area assignment the rotation is determined by the order in which crews return to their home unit from their last out-of-area assignment, regardless of the date of dispatch or length of assignment.

Note: IHC's that are temporarily status as T2IA will remain on the IHC out of area rotation list. If they go out as a T2IA they will be treated in the rotation the same as if they went out as a Type 1. Requests for "Type 1" will go to the first available fully qualified IHC in the rotation. If an out-of-area order is received for "Type 1 or T2IA" crew, the intent is to fill the order with Type 1 crews before the order is disseminated to Type 2IA crews. However, NRCC may deviate from this intent on a case by case basis depending on certain conditions such as: date/time needed, large transport aircraft logistics, time constraints (work/rest), geographic area drawdown or NICC direction. T2IA IHC's will be considered for filling requests for "Type 1 or T2IA" or "T2IA" depending on length of availability and/or location of regular T2IA crews. IHC's that status as T2IA for an entire season will be removed from the out-of-area rotation.

Crew superintendents will notify their respective zone Dispatch Center of their return home and their expected availability for a new assignment. Their Dispatch Center will then notify the crew desk at NRCC which will insert the crew into the rotation based on their return date and

time. Crews will be dispatched sequentially from this rotation list. If the first crew is not available at the time of an out-of-area request, the next crew in rotation will be selected for the assignment. The unavailable crew will maintain their place in the rotation and will be dispatched in sequence when they return to available status. Crews who fly together to and from an assignment on the same dates will be returned to the bottom of the rotation in the same order as when dispatched.

All IHCs will be capable of providing their own ground transportation. When transported by aircraft, crews will be dispatched with personal equipment, radios, and a minimum of three chainsaws. Crews must be prepared to transport chainsaws via commercial ground freight if traveling by a carrier who declines to load their saws. Specialty tools, properly sheathed and packaged, may also be included in IHC equipment.

Travel to the incident via IHC vehicles is recommended if the following considerations are met:

- The crew is rested, and work/driving shifts will be in accordance with agency driving/duty regulations (*Reference the National Interagency Mobilization Guide, Chapter 10*).
- The crew can arrive at the incident in an acceptable time frame.
- The ordering unit agrees to ground transportation.

Based on current or predicted local or national needs, there may be occasions when NRCC or NICC chooses to not commit all IHCs. The affected crew(s) will be notified by NRCC when this takes place.

As per national standards, crew size will be a minimum of 18 and a maximum of 22. Any deviations to crew size must be approved by the ordering unit and documented in IROC.

Northern Rockies Type 1 (IHC) Crews

Crew Name	Superintendent	Zone Disp	Unit	Home Base	Start
Bitterroot	John Wood	MT-BRC	MT-BRF	Darby, MT	06/06
Chief Mountain	Lyle St, Goddard	MT-GDC	MT-BFA	Browning, MT	TBD
Flathead	Shawn Borgen	MT-KIC	MT-FNF	Hungry Horse, MT	06/01
Helena	Fred Thompson	MT-HDC	MT-HLF	Helena, MT	05/15
Idaho Panhandle	Chris Smith	ID-CDC	ID-IPF	Coeur d'Alene, ID	05/09
Lewis & Clark	Willie Knudsen	MT-GDC	MT-HLF	Great Falls, MT	05/18
Lolo	Shawn Faiella	MT-MDC	MT-LNF	Missoula, MT	04/29

Table 17: NR Type 1 (IHC) Crews

All seven crews are available for the core of the fire season, June 1 through September 30. Crews are available for assignment approximately 10 days after the beginning of their financed period, when their readiness review has been signed and submitted to the NRCC. Crew start dates selected are due in part to assist with the prescribed fire program on their respective units. This schedule provides pre-season availability of 1-4 crews and post-season availability of 1-3 crews, with one crew available in early May and one until the end of October. All 7 crews are funded for 100 days; this is inclusive of critical training.

Crew Duty Days and Days Off

CREW	SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
Idaho Panhandle	OFF	OFF	ON	ON	ON	ON	ON
Helena	ON	ON	ON	ON	ON	OFF	OFF
Flathead	OFF	ON	ON	ON	ON	ON	OFF
Lolo	OFF	ON	ON	ON	ON	ON	OFF
Bitterroot	OFF	ON	ON	ON	ON	OFF	OFF
Chief Mountain	OFF	ON	ON	ON	ON	ON	OFF
Lewis & Clark	OFF	ON	ON	ON	ON	ON	OFF
Number of Crews On	1	6	7	7	7	5	1

Table 18: IHC Duty Days and Days Off

TYPE 2 AND TYPE 2IA CREWS

Each crew will consist of a minimum of 18 and a maximum of 20 people, including any supervisory overhead and crew representatives. The total weight of a crew, including equipment, is not to exceed 5300 pounds.

Depending on date and time needed Type 2 or Type 2IA crews showing available should be prepared to depart for an assignment within four hours after receipt of a resource request. Departure would be defined as leaving the local unit en route to a designated assembly point. Departure time may be delayed if the assembled crew cannot start travel before 1800 and reach the incident or an appropriate RON location before 2200.

Northern Rockies Type 2 and Type 2IA crews must also meet the minimum standards outlined in annual operating plans. Crews not covered by an operating plan must be supplied upon dispatch with the following items:

- Shirts, fire resistant (2 each per person)
- Jeans, fire resistant (1 pair per person)
- Helmet hardhat with chinstrap (1 each per person)
- Leather gloves (1 pair per person)
- Goggles/Safety Glasses (1 pair per person)
- Ear plugs (1 pair per person)
- Fire Shelter, with case (1 each per person)
- Pack, personal gear or packsack (1 each per person)
- Field pack (1 each per person)
- Canteen/with cover (1 quart minimum, 2 each per person)
- First aid kit (1 per crew)
- Headlamp (1 each per person)
- Batteries (4 each per person)

These items are ordered through the cache system by NFES number. Check your current year NFES catalog for correct item numbers.

Additional items will be dispatched only if requested by the ordering unit and if they are available from the sending unit. Units ordering Type 2 and Type 2IA crews should consider the

need for sack lunches and other tools and supplies (i.e., chainsaws, hand tools, sleeping bags, etc.).

Note: Type 2 and Type 2IA crews ordered through NICC ARE NOT dispatched with hand tools when transported by air. If tools are needed, they should be ordered separately as a supply item by the requesting unit.

Note: Crews dispatched via air transportation should be supplied with double sack lunches by their hosting dispatch center, or the crews themselves if they prefer, immediately prior to departure. Dispatch and crew bosses should ensure individual crewmember dietary needs are being met. Double lunches are also advised for any dispatch requiring lengthy travel or uncertain support upon arrival.

Note: Enter crew records in IROC to correspond with the number of crews that can be mobilized at any one time. For example, if MT-BRF, Bitterroot, can mobilize 5 crews at any one time, there should only be 5 crew records in IROC. When the dispatcher fills a crew request, the crew assignment name may be modified to identify the specific crew and identify the mobilization number. For example, consider a crew resource record labeled: CREW – T2 – Bitterroot – Crew #1. At time of the 14th crew mobilization, the assignment name may be modified to show CREW – T2 – Bitterroot – Crew #1 – Mob #14.

Agency & State Regular Crews

Northern Rockies sponsors a BLM Veteran Crew and Region 1 Training Crew:

Zone Disp	Crew Type / Name	Unit	Home Base
ID-GVC	T2IA Palouse	ID-NCF	Grangeville, ID
MT-BDC	T2IA Billings #1	MT-BID	Billings, MT
MT-KIC	T2IA Great Northern	MT-R01	Condon, MT
MT-MDC	T2IA Mission Valley	MT-FHA	Ronan, MT

Table 19: NR Agency Type T2IA Crews

Agencies should train and organize their firefighters and project crews into regular agency firefighting crews or initial attack modules. Depending on local unit commitments, these crews may be available for assignment outside of their home unit.

Contract Crews

Northern Rockies sponsors multiple National Type 2IA and MT DNRC Type 2 contract crews:

Zone Disp	Crew Type / Name	Unit	Home Base
ID-CDC	T2IA Miller Timber Services, Inc. NCC-11A (MAP: 08/01 – 09/15)	ID-FCF	Philomath, OR (MAP - Coeur d'Alene, ID)
ID-CDC	T2IA Miller Timber Services, Inc. NCC-11B (MAP: 08/01 – 09/15)	ID-FCF	Philomath, OR (MAP - Coeur d'Alene, ID)
MT-GDC	T2 Rocky Mountain Fire Company - Crew #3	MT-MTS	Great Falls, MT
MT-KIC	T2 Forest Management Specialist LLC.	MT-MTS	Kalispell, MT

MT-MDC	T2IA Grayback Forestry, Inc. NCC-12A (MAP: 08/01 – 09/15)	ID-FCF	Missoula, MT
MT-MDC	T2IA Grayback Forestry, Inc. NCC-12B (MAP: 08/01 – 09/15)	ID-FCF	Missoula, MT
MT-MDC	T2 Grayback Forestry, Inc.	MT-MTS	Missoula, MT
MT-MDC	T2 Rocky Mountain Fire Company - Crew #1	MT-MTS	Missoula, MT
MT-MDC	T2 Rocky Mountain Fire Company - Crew #2	MT-MTS	Missoula, MT

Table 20: NR Contract Type T2IA and T2 Crews

These crews are dispatched after all agency crews have been exhausted. Contract crews are required by their contract to meet or exceed the national standards for Type 2IA crews.

BIA & TRIBAL NATIVE AMERICAN CREWS

Reference the Native American Crew (NAC) Operating Plan located at:

<https://gacc.nifc.gov/nrcc/dispatch/crews/crews.htm>.

Native American crews are named in the same manner as agency regular crews.

JOB CORPS CREWS

Leaders of Job Corps crews shall be qualified Task Force or Strike Team Leaders. Job Corps crews will be named using their center name in the same manner as agency regular crews. The following units are responsible for dispatching Job Corps crews:

Bitterroot Dispatch Center (Bitterroot NF)

- Trapper Creek JC (Line)
- Trapper Creek JC (Camp)

Dillon Interagency Dispatch Center (Beaverhead-Deerlodge NF)

- Anaconda JC (Line)
- Anaconda JC (Camp)
- Anaconda JC (Kitchen)

DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS INMATE CREWS

ICIO (Idaho Correctional Institution Orofino) Crews are composed of 19 prison inmate firefighters plus one IDL crew boss and one correctional officer. The crews come fully equipped and with their own transportation. Crews are located in Orofino, ID and may be used outside the State of Idaho. The requesting unit should be notified that the request is being filled with an inmate crew and will confirm via NRCC or through the neighborhood that it is acceptable to fill the crew request with an inmate crew.

The State of Montana sponsors one Type 2 crew, the Deer Lodge crew from the Montana State Prison in Deer Lodge, composed of 15 prison inmate firefighters, three squad bosses consisting of at least two correctional officers, and one DNRC crew boss. The crew comes fully equipped and with their own transportation. The crew is restricted to incidents within the state of Montana and is ordered through Dillon Interagency Dispatch Center. A request for the crew

needs to include the county in which the incident is located. The requesting unit should be notified that the request is being filled with an inmate crew and will confirm via NRCC or through the neighborhood that it is acceptable to fill the crew request with an inmate crew. The requesting unit must notify the county sheriff where the crew will be working and get approval.

EMERGENCY FIREFIGHTING (EFF) CREWS

Emergency firefighting crews will be hired, trained, and employed as directed by wildland fire agencies in response to declining resource availability and increasing preparedness levels. Classify EFF crews as appropriate according to *Chapter 13 of the Interagency Standards for Fire and Fire Aviation Operations*

<https://www.nifc.gov/PUBLICATIONS/redbook/2020/Chapter13.pdf>.

EFF crews will be dispatched through normal dispatch channels.

MONTANA NATIONAL GUARD FIREFIGHTING CREWS

If conventional civilian sources for fire hand crews have been exhausted nationally, Montana National Guard soldiers may be mobilized, trained and formed into crews. All requests for Montana National Guard resources must be placed with NRCC. In order to activate the National Guard, the Governor of the State of Montana must issue an executive order for this purpose through the Department of Military Affairs Disaster and Emergency Services.

The mobilization of National Guard resources is dependent upon military and civilian commitments to other state and federal missions. Montana National Guard resources follow length of assignment and rest and rotation for personnel in accordance with the DNRC Wildland Fire Suppression (900-Manual) – Length of Commitment, Work/Rest, and Rest and Recuperation Guidelines. Montana National Guard resources may not be dispatched outside the State of Montana. Expect two days of travel to and from the point of mobilization. Because fire line duty is not the typical duty of a soldier, adequate time and pre-planning must be allowed before mobilization in order to prepare for an assignment. A National Guard crew must be supplied with personal protective equipment including suitable footwear, fire line supplies, and a certified Crew Boss. National Guard crews will be deployed with a variety of support vehicles, equipment, supplies, and military command personnel. *For detailed information on the mobilization of Montana National Guard resources see the current Montana National Guard Operating plan available at:* <http://dnrc.mt.gov/divisions/forestry/fire-and-aviation/fire-business/agreements-plans-and-guides>

REGULAR MILITARY

All orders for regular military crews will be processed through NICC. *Refer to the Military Use Handbook (NFES #2175) for specific mobilization details, located at:* <https://www.nifc.gov/nicc/logistics/references.htm>.

CAMP CREWS

Crew bosses and crew members will meet a minimum fitness test score established by the sponsoring agency. Unless otherwise requested, a camp crew will consist of 10 people (crew boss plus nine) and will be dispatched with minimum supplies. Several BIA, Tribal Units, and Job

Corp Centers can provide camp crews. Contact the zone dispatch center associated with these organizations for resource availability. Camp crews will include "CREW – CAMP" prior to the crew name and are named in the same manner as agency regular crews.